Share your opinions with California’s Community Vaccine Advisory Committee about how they should determine the order in which groups of people will get the COVID-19 vaccine!

This committee is convened by the California Department of Public Health. More information can be found here.

Email your comments to: COVID19VaccineOutreach@cdph.ca.gov

- In your comments, identify if you are a senior, disabled person, person of color, etc.
- Identify if you are with a community group.

Suggested Talking Points:

- Older people and people with high-risk conditions have died in by far the greatest numbers from COVID, and should be prioritized for the vaccine!

- Do not look at “saving lives” as separate from “societal functioning.” Disabled people and older people are an important part of society and are often essential workers themselves, and they work with and live with essential workers.

- Higher weight people, older people, and people with disabilities or chronic conditions that put them more at risk for COVID-19 problems, or who are delaying critical medical care due to their COVID-19 risk level, should be prioritized immediately after healthcare workers and people in nursing homes and other congregate settings.

- Disabled people in psychiatric institutions, group homes, board and cares, or other congregate settings should be in the same category as people in nursing homes.

- People who receive care at home from family, friends, or providers, along with all paid and unpaid home care workers, should also receive vaccine options when people in care facilities do, or immediately after.

- The impact of the vaccine on members of marginalized groups, such as communities of color, must be studied in detail so that people can make an informed decision about the vaccine.

- People in jails and prisons must be prioritized for the vaccine. Currently one in five people in prison has COVID-19. A large proportion of people in prison are disabled people and seniors, as well as Black, Latinx and indigenous people.

- Listen to the voices of disabled people and seniors, especially those who are also poor people, people of color, and people with other marginalized identities.
Draft Social Media Posts:

Stand with the senior and disability community on the matter of vaccination against SARS-CoV-2 by committing to prioritize those urgently in need of immunity from the virus--home care consumers and workers! Demand anti-ableist and anti-ageist healthcare!

Prioritize seniors and disabled people using home care, and home care workers, for the COVID vaccine! It’s a matter of life and death. #NoBodyIsDisposable #EndAbleism #EndAgeism

“Saving lives” and “societal functioning” are not separate goals! Seniors and disabled people are an important part of society. #NoBodyIsDisposable #EndAbleism #EndAgeism

Tag: CA Dept of Public Health

Sample Letter:

Dear Staff and Committee Members,

I am a disabled person/senior living in ___, California, and a member of ____. I urge you to apply disability justice principles in determining who gets priority for COVID-19 vaccines.

Created by a diverse group of disabled people, the principles of disability justice take into account how race, class, and other identity and systemic factors impact people with disabilities. Using this lens for vaccine prioritization, people in intersecting groups with multiple risk factors should receive priority access, most notably Black, Latinx, Indigenous, disabled, older, higher weight, houseless, incarcerated, undocumented and others who may be at disproportionate risk related to COVID-19.

Higher weight people, older people, and people with disabilities or chronic conditions that put them more at risk for COVID-19 problems, or who are delaying critical medical care due to their COVID-19 risk level, should be prioritized immediately after healthcare workers and people in nursing homes and other congregate settings.

Disabled people in psychiatric institutions, group homes, board and cares, or other congregate settings should be in the same category as people in nursing homes.

People who receive care at home from family, friends, or providers, along with all paid and unpaid home care workers, should also receive vaccine options when people in care facilities do, or immediately after. Eligibility can be certified by the person’s doctor or by the fact that they use In Home Supportive Services, Supported Living Services, or other services.

The vaccine should always be optional and not mandatory due to the history of medical experimentation and abuse in the US directed against racialized, disadvantaged, and/or marginalized groups. The impact of the vaccine on members of marginalized groups must be studied in detail so that people can make an informed decision about the vaccine.
People in jails and prisons must be prioritized for the vaccine. Currently one in five people in prison has COVID-19\textsuperscript{1}. A large proportion of people in prison are disabled people and seniors, as well as Black, Latinx and indigenous people.

We ask you to listen directly to the voices of disabled people, particularly those with multiply marginalized identities, in determining vaccine prioritization.

Thank you.

{your name}

\textsuperscript{1} https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/12/18/1-in-5-prisoners-in-the-u-s-has-had-covid-19